Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /058 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 122029

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, EAID, SHUM, DM, IBRD

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

REF: COTONOU 916 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPARTMENT POUCHED TODAY IBRD DOCUMENTS ON BENIN FEEDER ROADS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON THESE FOR DISCUSSION WITH GPRB WITHOUT RESTRICTION. WE ASSUME THAT GPRB FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS DECLINING TO OFFICIALLY REACT ON U.S. ABSTENTION ON VOTE FOR DOLS 7.5 MILLION IN IDA LOANS FOR BENIN ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS WAS ACT OF CAUTION. POST SHOULD BE ALERT FOR REACTION AS GPRB CONFIDENTIAL

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ABSORBS THIS NEWS AND REPORT TO DEPARTMENT ASAP. GPRB AMBASSADOR HERE HAS BEEN IN NEW YORK THIS WEEK AND NOT YET INFORMED.

2. WITH REGARD TO PROTOCOL CHIEF'S PRIVATE REMARKS, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT WE HAVE TAKEN BENIN'S NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS INTO ACCOUNT IN CONSIDERING THIS ACTION BUT STILL

WISH TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BENINESE GOVERNMENT OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE, ESPECIALLY ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION. OUR CONCERN IS NOT REPEAT NOT LIMITED TO U.S. CITIZENS BUT EXTENDSTO ALL BENINESE CITIZENS ARBITRARILY DETAINED. YOU CAN NOTE THAT WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE PROPOSED NEW DRAFT "FUNDAMENTAL LAW" AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING A COPY.

3. AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND LOAN FOR BENIN PROBABLY COMING UP FOR CONSIDERATION BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN JULY. DETAILS NOT YET AVAILABLE.

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